

February 28, 2019

Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco  
Environmental Committee Co-Chairs  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Proposed House Bill No. 6637

Dear Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco:

I would like to begin by thanking the Environmental Committee and the sponsors of the proposed House Bill no. 6637 for their diligence and foresight in considering combating the devastating effects of invasive species on our beautiful lakes and ponds.

I am wearing a few hats with this letter. I am President of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes, President of Bantam Lake Protective Association, a Commissioner of the Town of Morris Inland Wetlands Commission and a member of the Invasive Plant Council. As a representative of these groups, I can say unequivocally that we support the Proposed bill and the substitute language that the Connecticut Federation of Lakes will provide.

The Bantam Lake Protective Association has been very proactive in studying and treating for invasive weeds for over 10 years. The Association is a non-profit organization with all volunteer directors. The annual costs for treatments, studies and education are on average over \$100,000. Bantam Lake has been designated a Heritage Lake and is the largest natural lake in Connecticut with over 947 acres. The State of Connecticut purchased a large property on the lake which is now a public State boat launch and marina. It is enjoyed by many fisherman and boaters in the state and out of state. Although the invasives such as milfoil, fanwort, water chestnut summers have been greatly abated, two summers ago the Town beaches and the annual Bantam Lake Ski Show were canceled because of the blue green algae contamination on the lake. This had a direct effect on the local economy and recreational use of the lake.

I hope that you will vote to enact this bill. I believe it is important for research and rehabilitation, but more importantly for the education and awareness it will bring. The bill will be a great response to the needs of the inland lakes and ponds.

Thank you for consideration,

Sincerely,

Constance L. Trolle